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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should like to send you our reply to the declaration made by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the occasion of the twelfth review of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the Security Council, issued in document A/51/84-S/1996/211 of 22 March 1996.

The Great Jamahiriya expresses its total rejection of the declaration, which reveals the obstinacy of those States and their insistence upon going against the view of the majority of the members of the Security Council, who at each review express their appreciation of the flexibility shown by the Jamahiriya with a view to arriving at a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute and reaffirm their support for the proposal made by the League of Arab States. The proposal, which calls for the trial of the two suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice before Scottish judges and in accordance with Scottish law, has met with support from many regional and international organizations because it takes into account the interests of all the parties and is therefore the sole practical proposal capable of ending the dispute in a peaceful manner.

The inability of the three States to find any reasonable grounds to support the accusations of terrorism levelled by them against the Jamahiriya has led them to attempt to establish arbitrarily a link between the Jamahiriya and events connected with the Palestinian opposition to Israeli occupation. This is a flagrant blackmail attempt, inasmuch as the Great Jamahiriya has proclaimed many times its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. Moreover, the entire world understands that the Jamahiriya is a victim of continual terrorism by the United States, which, not content to provoke Libya within its territorial waters, in 1986 went so far in its scorn for international law as to send hundreds of military aircraft at night to bomb Libyan cities, in flagrant defiance of international legitimacy and much to the disapproval of the peoples of the entire world.

The insistence of the three States on rejecting peaceful solutions to the dispute and their threats to intensify the application of the existing sanctions

can only mean that those States are using the tragedy of the Pan Am aircraft victims, and the suffering of their families for more than seven years, for political purposes, in order to discredit the Libyan Arab people and impair their right to choose freely the patterns of their political and economic life, in the belief that continuing the sanctions will lead them to deny their principles and their goals and submit to policies of hegemony and subordinat

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has shown complete flexibility, taken numerous initiatives and agreed to the proposal of the League of Arab States as a compromise solution for ending the dispute. The three States, however, persist in their obstinacy and reject every solution, though they know that the extradition of the two suspects by Libya cannot be expected owing to the absence of any extradition agreement with the United States or the United Kingdom and the fact that it is prohibited by Libyan national law. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes on this occasion to call upon the Security Council to find an appropriate solution to this dispute that takes into account both the interests of the victims' families and those of the Libyan Arab people, with the request that the parties concerned expedite its implementation. Should the three States remain obdurate, it is incumbent on the Security Council to remove the sanctions against the Jamahiriya, the continued existence of which runs counter to the will of the international community.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWAI
Permanent Representative